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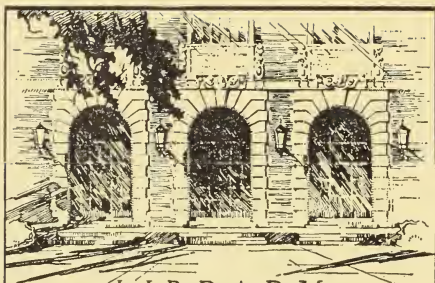
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EAST, Ernest E.

THE INHABITANTS OF
THREE FRENCH
VILLAGES AT PEORIA
ILLINOIS

(1933)



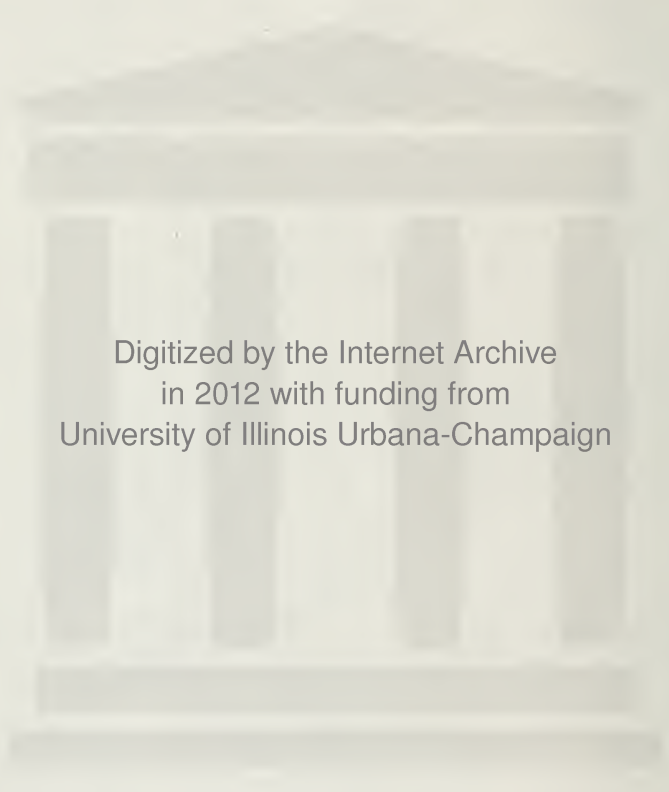
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The Inhabitants
of
Three French Villages
at
Peoria, Illinois

The Inhabitants
of
Three French Villages
at Peoria, Illinois



A DIRECTORY:
Old Peoria, 1765 to 1796
La Ville de Maillet, 1778 to 1812
Trading House, after 1812



Compiled by Ernest E. East



Price fifty cents
Peoria Historical Press
1112 Prospect Road

This edition limited to 100 copies

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FOREWORD

A journalist has attempted simply to collect and preserve in one pamphlet the names of French settlers and traders who dwelt on Lake Peoria under British and early American occupations of the Illinois Country. Their names seemed to be found only in scattered public records and in limited number in Illinois and Peoria county histories.

1443 Robert LaSalle erected Fort Creve Coeur on the east side of the Illinois river in 1680, but its life was very short. First settlements were at Fort Pimiteoui on the west bank of Peoria Lake where there was a large village of Peoria Indians, and where Father Jacques Gravier, a Jesuit, in 1693 dedicated his mission church. One St. Michel was blacksmith here in 1705. The priest's servant was named Deman. History of the next half-century is obscure. France ceded this territory to England in 1763.

Antoine Saint Francois sowed corn here in 1765 and there is some evidence of earlier colonization although such settlement probably was not continuous. The population was a floating one and the inhabitants were forced to remove, once for two years on account of Indian depredations. Mostly illiterate, the French of Peoria were a care-free people, able to adjust themselves quickly to changes of political fortune. Lives of many were filled with adventure and romance.

No attempt has been made to correct misspelled French names. They are presented as found in public record.

ERNEST E. EAST

Peoria, Illinois,
August 1, 1933.



ANTOINE LeCLAIRE

Bought two lots on Main street in La Ville de Maillet in 1809 and 1810. Claims were confirmed by acts of Congress. He was one of the founders and wealthiest men of Davenport, Iowa. LeClaire and wife deeded his lots in Peoria to Albert Kelsey of Syracuse, N. Y., and Peter W. Potter of Keokuk, Iowa, in 1857. The consideration was \$1,000.

DWELLERS IN OLD PEORIA

Also called "Old Peorias Fort and Village." At or near site of Fort Saint Louis (Fort Pimiteoui) erected 1691-92 by Tonty and LaForest.

- (U. S. survey approved Sept. 20, 1840, shows village lay on west bank of the Illinois river in section 3, township 8 in range 8 east of the 4th P. M., beginning at a point slightly below Hayward street, thence N. E. to a point on N. Perry Ave. about 125 feet above Cornhill St., thence at right angles to a point near corner of Mary St. and N. Perry Ave., thence to a point 75 feet above intersection of alley and Caroline St. between N. Monroe St. and N. Madison Ave., thence to the Illinois river at point 100 feet above Caroline St.)

Note 1: Known years of residence indicated thus: 1765-1780; -1782 means before 1782; 1784‡ means after 1784; 1795 (?) means year doubtful.

A

- Amlin (Emelin ?) Jean B., -1783; 3 land claims confirmed, one for military service.
Arcoitte, Francois, 1782-1783‡; petitioned Congress, 1807; 2 land grants.
Arundel, William, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807; 2 land grants, 1 military; removed to Cahokia; St. Clair Co. clerk and recorder; died Kaskaskia, 1816

B

- Babo, Francis, military land grant.
Belhumer, Joseph, 1795 (?).
Bernard, Etienne, 1778-1785; 400 acre claim confirmed "near the River Coteneau (Kickapoo creek) within 3 miles of Pioria."
Beuro, Pierre de, store clerk 1776; trader at Bureau creek; slain 1790.
Biore, Louis, -1783; pet. Congress 1807; lant grant.
Biore, Louis Junr., -1783; petitioned Congress 1807.
Boucher, Francis, 1795; died before 1820; 2 land grants, 1 military.
Boucher, Josephte, 1795; heir of Francis.
Brunette,, Louis, -1782‡; land grant.
Buisson, Louis, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807; military land grant.

C

- Chatelerean (Chatelereaux?) Louis, 1778; died 1795.
Chatellerean (Chatelereaux?) Louis Junr., -1795; petitioned Congress, 1807; he or father had horse-mill; 3 land grants, 1 military.
Chevalier, Pascal, 1780.
Cerre, Pascal, 1790-1795.
Chevery (Cherory, Chervry) Jean Baptiste, 1779-1783; petitioned Congress, 1807; land grant.
Chevery (Cherory, Chervry) Baptiste, Junr.; petitioned Congress, 1807.
Chorette, ———, 1795.
Chorette, Marie Josephte, nee Tieriereau, wife of Chorette.
Coinoi, Louis, 1780-1795.

D

- Ducharne, Jacque, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807.
Deschamps, Ante., -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807.
Diffon, ———. Seen at Petit Etroit (Little Detroit, the narrows) 1773.
Dineau, ———. Seen at Petit Etroit, 1773.

E

- Emelin, John Baptiste.

F

- Fiaiteau, Augustine, 1789-1796; had blacksmith shop.
Fecto, Augustin. Seen at Petit Etroit (Little Detroit, the narrows), 1773.

G

- Grandbois, Ante, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807; military land grant.
Graza, Baptiste, 1769-1780.

J

- Jourdain, Jean, -1783; pet. Congress 1807; land grant.

L

- La Bell, Antonio.
Laframboise, Joseph, 1795; (one Joseph Laframboise was son of Francis Laframboise who died in Chicago, then Peoria Co., April 26, 1830.)

Landeau, Charles, 1790; military land grant.
Lapattre, Joseph, 1789-1794.
Lapierre, Francois, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807.
Laroach, —, (7 years a resident).
Lavassieur, dit Chamberlain, Pierre, 1794†; military land grant.
Leframbroise, Joseph (probably same as Laframboise)
Lonigo, Charlotte, 1780.
Louvel, Michael, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807.
Lusby, Thomas, 1795.

M

Maillet, Jean Baptiste, settled before 1773; trader; sold land at "Old Peorias Fort" to Pointe Sable, March 13, 1773; founded new village 1½ miles southward, probably about 1778.
Maillette, Theresa, widow of Cattenoir; sold house and lot 1798.
Miney, —. Seen at Petit Etroit (Little Detroit, the narrows), 1773.

N

Novelle (or Lovel), Francois, 1780 (?).

P

Parent, Jean Bte., 1780-1783; farmed near old fort; petitioned Congress, 1807; two land grants, one military.
Parent, Jean Bte., Junr., -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807.
Petit (alias Lalumiere), Louis; sold military grant to I. Darneille.
Pettier, Jean Bpte., -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807.
Pilette, Louis, -1783; military land grant.
Pointe Sable (Pointstable, Point au Sable, de Sable, de Saible) Jean Baptiste 1773, perhaps earlier, to 1783, perhaps later; Franch mulatto, probably from San Domingo; bought land March 13, 1773, from J. B. Maillet; sold to Isaac Darneille; removed to Chicago river; gained wealth as trader; retired about 1796; probably died at home of Clamorgan (Jacques?) in St. Louis; pet. Congress, 1807; one land claim confirmed; one rejected by Kaskaskia commission, 1809; testimony that he cultivated land between the old fort and the new settlement, 1780.

R

Rocque, Augustine, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807;
two land grants.

Rochere, Francois, -1783; petitioned Congress, 1807.

S

Saint, Francis, Antoine, 1765-1780; sowed corn, 1765;
died in S. Illinois.

Saint John, ——— (Shoenberger?) 1780-1795.

St. Cyr, Hyacinthe, 1780; witness, 1820.

Shoenberger (alias St. Jean) Jean Baptiste, 400 acre
grant near the old fort of Peoria confirmed on ac-
count of improvements.

Sibinger, ———, 1781; lot owner.

T

Tieriereau, ——— (see Charlotte Chorette).

Troque, Charlotte, (insane in 1820) widow Pierre, and
daughter of Antoine Saint Francis.

V

Verbois, (alias Blondeaux) Pierre, -1783; petitioned
Congress, 1807; military land grant.

Note 2: Testimony indicates inhabitants of Old Peoria were
forced to remove in 1780 or 1781 on account of Indian
depredations. They returned after the peace of 1783. Old
Peoria was abandoned gradually in favor of La Ville de
Maillet.

Note 3: "Inhabitants of the Illinois and village of Peoria" in
1807 memorialized Congress to include Peoria in the Kaskas-
kia district that they might avail themselves of the benefits
of an act granting land donations to settlers. Twenty-four
signed petition which was received by Congress Feb. 26,
1807. It seems likely some of the signers lived at Cahokia
or elsewhere in 1807, but had lived in Old Peoria prior to
1783, proof of such residence being required under the act.
Peoria was included in consideration of claims by the board
at Kaskaskia. Nicholas Jarrott, then of Cahokia, also sign-
ed petition, but proof is lacking he ever lived in Old Peoria.

DWELLERS IN LA VILLE DE MAILLET

also called Au Pied du lac (at the foot of the lake) and its several corrupted forms: Au Pay, Dupee, Dupice, Le Pe, Lee Pee, Opa, Opea, Opec, Pay, Pays, Pe and Pees, and New Village of Peoria.

- U. S. survey approved Sept. 20, 1840, shows village lay on west bank of the Illinois river in section 9, township 8 north in range 8 east of the 4th P. M., beginning at a point 125 feet above Liberty street and the river, thence northwestwardly to Washington street, thence southwestwardly to Oak street, thence southeastwardly to Illinois river. Outlots or fields extended westwardly toward the bluffs and southwardly to Kickapoo Creek).

B

- Bellanger, alias Belonge, Raphael, -1812.
Bertrand, Mary, wife of Simon, and widow of John Demonchelle.
Bertrand, Simon, 1799-1803‡.
Binet, Louis, 1810-1812; lived lot 45.
Buisson (Bisson, Beesaw, Besong, Bissow, Besau, Beason, Bieson) Louis, -1812.
Blondeau, Drezy, 1788-1806.
Blondeau, John Baptiste, 1793-1799.
Bourbonne, Antoine, 1801-1812.
Bruce, Elijah, -1812.
Buche, Francis, 1809-1812; petitioned Congress, 1813; lived St. Louis, Mo., 1836.
Buche, Rev. Father Jacques.
Buche, Sarah, wife of Francis.

C

- Casterique, Bpte., signed letter to Rocheblave Jan. 26, 1778.
Castion, Joseph, 1793-1794.
Champlaine, John Baptiste, 1802-1810.
Chatellerault, Louis; signed letter to Rocheblave Jan. 26, 1778.
Chorette, —, 1800; lived on lot No. 39.
Cicare, Antoine, 1802; witness, 1820.
Condier, Joseph, 1796; rem. 1797-8; died before 1820.
Coursoll, Jean Marie, 1801‡.
Coursoll, Michael, 1801.

D

- Darneille, Isaac, b 1770; lawyer, second in Illinois; Pease says he eloped to Peoria with a Cahokia matron; McCulloch says he was "brilliant but profligate"; bought 800 acres from J. B. Maillet July 6, 1801; sold to William (Colonel?) Russell Oct. 5, 1807; also sold to Russell land bought of Baptiste Pelletier (Pettier?), of Pierre Verbois, dit Blondereau, and of Jean Baptiste Pointe Sable; practiced in Cahokia court; died in Kentucky in 1830.
- Defond, John Baptiste, 1805-1812; commissioned Aug. 8, 1811, captain 2nd Regt. (St. Clair Co.) Ill. Ter. militia; military land grant; died before 1820.
- Defond, Louis, -1812.
- Defond, Madame, wife of John B.; married (2) Francis Racine, Jr.
- Dejeney Joseph, 1809.
- Demonchelle, John, died before 1803.
- Demonchelle, Joseph, married (1) Louis LaBonshier; married (2) Hypolite Maillet.
- Demonchelle, Mary, wife of John; m. (2), Simon Bertrand.
- Deschamps, Antoine, 1778-1812; justice of peace, Indiana Ter. 1801; justice of peace St. Clair Co. Ill. Ter. 1809; Ill. river mgr. American Fur Co.
- Dupre, Francis, -1799-1801.

F

- Fontaine, Felix, 1806-1812; petitioned Congress, 1813; removed St. Louis; died after Jan. 8, 1835; probably married (2), Annex —.
- Fontaine, dit Carsereau, Joseph, wife of Felix.
- Forsyth, Robert, son of Thomas; born lot No. 7; paymaster U. S. army 1833; lived St. Louis; platted Forsyth's addition in Peoria (on Forsyth St.); bought and sold French claims; married Ann M. —.
- Forsyth, Thomas, 1806-1812; born Dec. 5, 1771, at Detroit of William; est. trading post at Ft. Dearborn with brother Robert and half-brother John Kinzie about 1802; removed to Peoria; allowed two land grants on Lake St. Clair, Michigan Ter. 1809; justice of peace Ill. Ter. Aug. 8, 1811; U. S. Indian agent, April 1, 1812; pet. Congress

1813; U. S. Indian agent at Fort. Armstrong (Rock Island) 1817-1830; died Oct. 23, 1833, near St. Louis; will, proved Nov. 1, named sons, Robert Allan and Thomas, and daughter Mary; manuscripts in Missouri and Wisconsin historical collections.

Forsyth, Mrs., wife of Thomas, nee LeMotte, born in Hagerstown, Maryland.

G

Grand Bois, Antoine, 1801†; died 1807 or 1808.

Grand Bois, Madame, wife of Antoine, -1806; died after 1807.

Grand Bois, Antoine, Junr., probably son of Antoine, removed to Co. of Kent, Upper Canada; removed to Wayne Co., Mich. 1837; married Sophia——.

Grand Bois, Aspasia, daughter of Antoine, (Sr.) married Blondeau; removed to Jo Daviess Co. Ill.

Grand Bois, Constance, probably daughter of Antoine (Sr.) married to Vandrz; her heirs sold interest in claim to Antoine Grand Bois, Jr.

Graveline, Joseph, -1788.

Guerrette, Joseph, petitioned Congress, 1813.

Gunoille, ——, -1812.

J

Jauntetot, Louis; signed letter to Rocheblave, Jan. 26, 1778.

Jourdean, Francis, 1800-1802.

L

La Belle, Charles, -1812; petitioned Congress 1813; died before 1820.

La Blond, ——, 1798-1799.

La Bonshier, Josette, nee Demonchelle, wife of Louis; married (2) Hypolite Maillet.

La Bonshier, Louis, 1794; died 1802 or 1803.

La Bonshier, Magdeline, daughter of Louis; married (1) Joseph Touchette; married (2) Nicholas Gloden; lived St. Clair Co. 1836-1846.

Labosierre (LaBonshier?) Lewis, appointed justice of peace for the county of St. Clair, Indiana Ter., Oct. 29, 1801.

La Croix, Adeline, daughter of Michael; married to Samuel B. Chandler.

- La Croix, Catherine, wife of Michael and daughter or cousin of Julian Dubuque; married (2) John Reynolds (Governor Illinois 1831-1834.)
- La Croix, Michael, 1808-1812; storekeeper and voyageur; served British army war of 1812; died insolvent before Nov. 21, 1848, in St. Clair Co.; left will.
- La Croix, Julia Maria, daughter of Michael; married to Lewis Morris.
- La Croix, Rene M., son of Michael, married Mary A. —; lived St. Clair Co. 1848.
- Lambert, Eustache; signed letter to Rocheblave Jan. 26, 1778.
- La Pance, Antoine, 1811-1812; pet. Congress 1813.
- Lavassieur, Angelique, daughter of Pierre; married to Benjamin Roi; removed to LaFayette Co., Wis.
- Le Claire, Antoine, 1809-1812; born Dec. 15, 1797, at St. Joseph (Mich.) of Francis Antoine and Indian squaw; petitioned Congress 1813; married 1820 at Peoria Marguerite LePage, born 1802, died 1876; granddaughter of the Sauk chief, Acoqua; interpreter at Fort Armstrong 1818; among founders of Davenport, Ia.; Le Claire, Ia., named for him; died Davenport Sept. 25, 1861.
- Le Claire, Michael, 1801-1806.
- Le Doux, Charles, 1793; died before 1799.
- Le Doux, Madame, wife of Charles; married (2) 1799 Simon Roi.
- Lionnais. —; signed letter to Rocheblave, Jan 26, 1778.
- Lusby, Thomas, 1798-1802†.

M

- Maillet, F.; received letter from Rocheblave before Jan. 26, 1778.
- Maillet (Maihet, Mayet, Mallet, Moillott) John (Jean) Baptiste, born perhaps at Mackinac; important trader; process server for Cahokia court, lived in stockade fort on lot Number seven (French claims) probably post commander under British; retained by Col. G. R. Clark and Gov. St. Clair as commander; may have accompanied expedition against British post at St. Joseph; awarded 800 acres in 3 grants, 1 for military service; killed 1801 probably in an affray with one Senegal who shot him; John Lyle, administrator.

Maillet, Hypolite, son of J. B., born in fort 1777-78; evicted 1812; lieut. 2nd Regt. St. Clair Co. Ill. Ter. militia; petitioned Congress 1813; died Cahokia, 1824, leaving 3 children, Hypolite; Ellen, daughter, unmarried, and Simon, died 1842, unmarried.
Mette, Jacques, 1801?-1812.
Mette, Lisette, present at R. Forsyth's birth; witness. Montplasier, Francis, 1806.

P

Pencenneau, Louis, 1812; petitioned Congress 1813; re-appeared 1815-1817.
Pencenneau, Louis, Junr., son of Louis.
Pilette, Angelica, 1788?-1806; wife of Louis and only child of Francis Willette; married (2) Laframboise; probably married (3) Bartholomew Fortier; lived St. Clair Co. 1849.
Pilette, Hypolite, born 1799 of Louis.
Pilette, Louis, -1799-1812.

R

Raboin, Baptiste, 1803-1809.
Raboin (?) Margaret, wife of J. B. Gervais, heir and probably daughter of Raboin.
Racine, Francis, 1801-1812; petitioned Congress 1813.
Racine, Francis Junr., 1801-1812; born 1794; petitioned Congress 1813; married Madame Defond, widow of John B.
Roi, Antoine, 1793-1798; brother of Simon.
Roi, Catherine, daughter of Simon; married to Baltzare Latour; removed to St. Clair Co.
Roi, Marie, daughter of Simon; married to Touissant Gondrion; removed to St. Clair Co.
Roi, Simon, 1794-1803; married 1799 Madame Le Doux, widow of Charles.
Roque, Augustine, 1779-1789 $\frac{1}{2}$; granted 400 acres "near Pioria."
Roque, Augustine, Junr.

S

Saint Dennis, Antoine, -1812; witness 1820.
Soulard, Tousant, 1778; witness 1820.

T

Truteau, Jyte; signed letter to Rocheblave Jan. 28, 1778.

U

Urquette, — (Parquette?) 1778-1793.

V

Val. Amable; signed letter to Rocheblave Jan. 26, 1778
Venault, Joseph; signed letter to Rocheblave Jan. 26, 1778.

Verinat, Joseph; signed letter to Rocheblave Jan. 26, 1778.

W

Whitby, —, 1801.

Wilette, Francis, 1788 or 1789; died 1804.

Wilette, Madame, wife of Francis; died about 1806.

Wilette, Angelica, daughter of Francis (see Pilette).

Note 5: Thirteen dwellers of New Peoria on Dec. 20, 1813, petitioned Congress for relief on account of losses suffered in burning of village and eviction of 42 inhabitants by Capt. Thomas E. Craig of the Ill. Ter. militia in November, 1812. Congress under act approved May 15, 1820, directed the register of the land office at Edwardsville, Ill., to examine and report on claims at Peoria. Edward Cole, the register, afterward governor, heard witnesses and reported on 70 claims filed by 31 claimants. Congress under act approved March 3, 1823, confirmed claims with minor limitations. Surveys were not approved until 1840. American settlers had occupied lands. Suits for possession followed. Thirteen cases went to U. S. supreme court. Cash settlements ended the last litigation over these "French Claims" in 1867.

Note 6: Ten dwellers "at the Pees" signed a joint letter to Rocheblave, last British governor at Fort Gage, Jan. 26, 1778, assuring him of their "most humble respect and submission." They acknowledged Rocheblave's previous letter to F. Maillet, evidently directing him to obtain submission of "Mascoutin Chiefs."

TRADING HOUSE

also called Opa post and the old French Trading post. (Situated on the east bank of the Illinois river in Tazewell County 3 miles southwardly from present Franklin street bridge, Peoria)

A

Alscomb, Antoine, 1825; tax assess. \$50; father of Josette.

Alscomb, Josette, daughter of Antoine; married May 19, 1826, to Francis Bourbonne, Junr.; divorced him on charge of desertion June 2, 1829.

B

Bebeau, —, 1818; American Fur Co employee.

Beabor, Louis, 1825; tax assess. \$700.

Bourbonne, Antoine, voted 1825; independent trader; agent American Fur Co.; same at Kankakee river; lived Portage des Sioux, Mo. 1838.

Bourbonne, Catishe, wife of Francis, Sr.

Bourbonne, Francis, 1825, 1826; tax assess. \$200; licensed 1825 to keep tavern with son, Francis.

Bourbonne, Francis, Junr., licensed to keep tavern as above; tax assess. \$100; married May 19, 1826, Josette Alscomb.

Buisson, Louis, 1818-1828†; American Fur Co. agent.

Buisson, Madame, Pottawatomie Indian, wife of Louis.

Buisson, Mary, daughter of Louis; married to Anderson; removed to Leavenworth, Kan., 1845.

C

Chevelire (Chavelier?) Pierre, 1825.

D

Dullioriee, Andevine; voted 1825.

Deschamps, Antoine, 1818-1826†; Illinois manager, American Fur Co.

L

La Booncan, Eubelle; voted 1825.

Landri, Pierre, slain 1825 by No-ma-que, an Indian.

M

Marsecau, Touissant; voted 1825.

Mette, Jacques; court interpreter, 1825.

Mette, Marie Louise, nee Dervin, wife of Jacques.

O

Ogee, Joseph, French Indian; came from Fort Clark where he was 1821; rented cabin to Peoria Co. for court house, 1825; removed about 1828 to Rock River (now Dixon, Ill.); left there soon.

Ogee, Madeline, Pottawatomie Indian, wife of Joseph; they separated; she married (2) Joe Alcott; removed to Kansas with Pottawatomies.

Ogee, John, son of Joseph.

T

Tromley, ———, trader; removed to Kansas 1844.

* * *

(Peter Dumont, assessed \$50 in 1825, lived at Little Detroit, the narrows).

* * *

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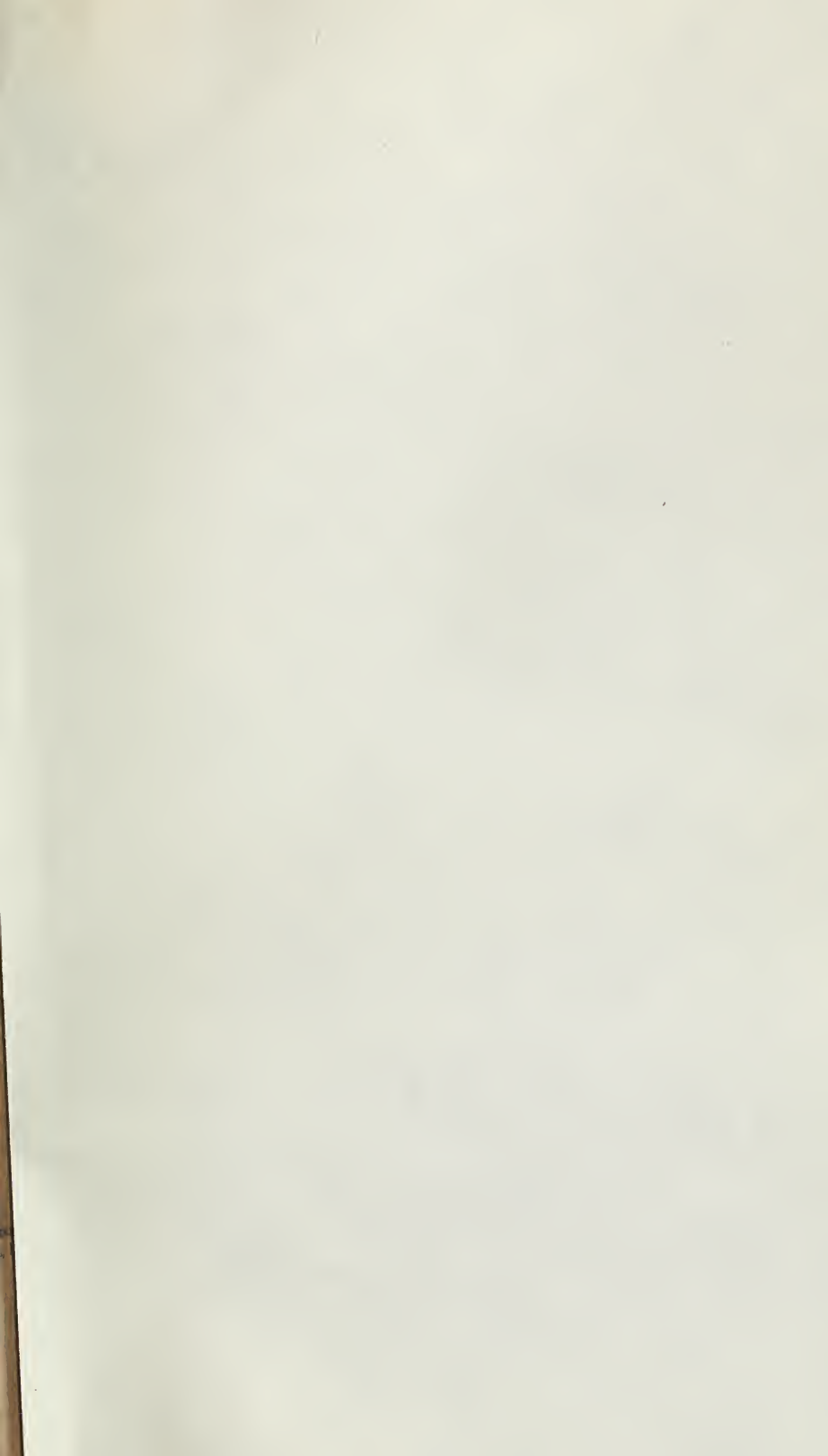
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